

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
27 May 2004 (27.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/044027 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C08G 18/22,  
C07F 7/00, B01J 31/22

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(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/GB2003/004921

(22) International Filing Date:  
12 November 2003 (12.11.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0226408.3 13 November 2002 (13.11.2002) GB

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,  
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE,  
GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR,  
KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK,  
MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT,  
RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR,  
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,  
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,  
SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,  
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

— with international search report

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: CATALYST AND PROCESS

(57) Abstract: The invention concerns an organometallic compound of formula  $RO-M(L^1)_x(L^2)_y(L^3)_z$  wherein M is a metal se-  
lected from titanium, zirconium, hafnium, iron (III), cobalt (III) or aluminium;  $L^1$  and  $L^2$  are each independently selected from a  
diketonate, an ester or amide of acetoacetic acid, a hydroxycarboxylic acid or ester thereof,  $R^1COO^-$  where  $R^1$  is substituted or un-  
substituted  $C_5 - C_{30}$  branched or linear alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl including polycyclic structures such as naphthyl or  
anthracyl, phosphate, phosphinate, phosphonate, siloxy or sulphonate, provided that when  $L^1$  is a ligand which forms two covalent  
bonds with the metal atom, and  $x = 1$  then  $y = 0$ ;  $L^3$  is selected from substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy,  $R^2COO^-$  where  $R^2$  is a  
linear or branched  $C_6 - C_{30}$  alkyl or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, a polyoxyalkyl or hydroxyalkoxyalkyl group; R is alkyl or  
hydroxy-alkyl hydroxyalkoxyalkyl, or (hydroxy)polyoxyalkyl group, x, y and z are each either 0 or 1 ( $x+y+z \leq V-1$ , where  $V =$   
the valency of the metal M. The invention further concerns compositions and processes for the manufacture of polyurethane articles  
using the organometallic compounds as catalysts to provide cured articles having a comparable performance to those produced using  
a commercial mercury-based catalyst.

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